



RMU Initiative Funding for Research

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

Darmstadt / Frankfurt a. M. / Mainz, November 2024

Promoting RMU networking in innovative projects

(Deadline: 31 March 2025)

Objective

Start-up financing of innovative, also risky research-driven collaborations within the framework of the RMU.

Funding format

Applications can be made for funding for human and material resources in order to open up new, innovative, potentially high-risk research fields in the RMU network, for instance, through networking, joint publications, events and applications for third-party funding. At least two of the three RMU member universities must be significantly involved in the projects. The funds must directly benefit the network activities. A statement of reasons is required. Personnel and material resources employed to acquire and operate equipment are expressly **not** eligible for funding. For hospitality expenses, the guidelines of the respective university must be observed. Funding approved for each collaborative project ranges between EUR 20,000 and EUR 40,000 per year across all three locations. The maximum funding period is two years.

Modalities

- Funding is open to all topics.
- Applications will be accepted from academics, including Early Career Researchers (ECRs) beginning with the transition from R2 (orientation phase after the doctorate) to R3 (qualification for the professorship) from at least two of the three member universities of the RMU, who are members of their respective university at the time of application.
- Funding is available for innovative, research-driven collaborative projects, including those involving risks, with a credible prospect of achieving the defined project goals (for instance, establishment of a scientific network, joint acquisition of third-party funding) within a realistic medium time frame (for instance, specifically defined milestones).

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Funding criteria

- Quality and degree of innovation of the project
- Academic credentials of the applicants
- Plausibility of the sustainability of the funded academic contact
- Added value through collaboration within the framework of the RMU
- Preference will be given to new forms of collaboration

Procedure

- Applications can be submitted by **31 March 2025** to koordination@rhein-main-unis.de. We recommend that applicants consult in advance with the respective research departments.
- The funding decision is the responsibility of the RMU Vice Presidents in charge for research and is supported by the involvement of the joint RMU Research Council and, if necessary, external expertise.
- Presentation of the results of the funded projects in a short final report at the end of the overall funding period to the members of the RMU-Directorate, the RMU Vice Presidents responsible for research and the members of the RMU Research Council.

Structure of the application (German or English)

Maximum length of 5 pages

Outline

General information

- Subject and objective of the project
- All applicants, including a central contact person per university and one person with overall responsibility
- Participating PIs (faculty, university, participation, if applicable, in their own university's research priorities)

Description of the initiative

- Generally comprehensible summary of the project (half a page max.)
- Scientific question and research program, specific research approach and methodology
- Significance and innovation potential for science and, if applicable, application
- Evidence of existing expertise, if applicable, joint preliminary work based on relevant criteria
- Description of the added value through collaboration between different locations
- Outline of sustainability perspectives, for instance, continuation of scientific exchange beyond the funding period, applications for third-party funding that may result from the collaboration, intended establishment of institutions, etc.



- Competitive situation nationally/internationally, differentiation from similar initiatives

Goals

- Objectives and planned activities during the funding period (research, collaboration, structures)
- Milestones during the requested funding period
- Outlook for possible follow-up activities

Planned measures

- Description of the measures to be financed from the requested funding
- The presentation should show how the planned measures will contribute to realizing the project for which funding has been requested.

Funds requested

- Tabular breakdown of requested funds by year, university and cost type

Further Information:

www.rhein-main-universitaeten.de